

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2009
SOUTHAVEN COUNTY PARK, YAPHANK, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton

PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Tom Ryan	Office of Legislature Vilorio-Fisher
Legislator Vilorio-Fisher	Legislature

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

Tom Jones, Suffolk Committee for Camping, expressed his opinion on an attempt to strip the Parks Board of Trustees of some of their powers (I.R. 1273). Mr. Jones said he doesn't see how this is a good thing. All levels of government need checks and balances. The Trustees should not lose their powers and he hopes that does not happen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2009

On page 2, paragraph 3 - change *Trustee McKay asked* to read "Trustee White asked".

On page 2, change paragraph 2 to read:

Legislator Viloría-Fisher spoke about I.R. 1273 (on the Parks Committee agenda) which was introduced by Legislator Browning regarding the Charter powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Parks Department. The Trustees would no longer “approve matters having to do with the regulation, use, fees and charges with regard to Parks and recreation facilities” changing that power to “make recommendations” on such matters. The Charter Review Committee is presently reviewing I.R. 1273. If anyone would like to speak at the next Parks Committee meeting, it is scheduled for April 22, 2009 at 1:00 PM in Hauppauge.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher reported she attended a budget legislative working group. A number of capital programs were not included in the County Executive’s budget. This omnibus budget has not yet been voted on.

This is a list of the capital programs that the legislative working group is considering putting back into the budget:

- Meter installation utility accountability (\$100,000 for an upgrade).
- Improvements to County marinas.
- Renovations to the Long Island Maritime Museum - \$63,000 to help match the \$63,000 the museum has to raise.
- Construction of operations and maintenance facilities (\$500,000 in 2010 for West Sayville and \$1,000,000 in 2011) for Cathedral Pines.
- Improvements to Peconic Dunes County Park (\$50,000 for 2011).
- Dog Runs – deferring \$80,000 for 2011 and another \$80,000 for 2012.

PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed one acquisition. A colored site map was distributed describing the property.

Santapogue Creek County Park Addition – Village of Lindenhurst & Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon

The acquisition of 25.75 acres in the Village of Lindenhurst and Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1)(a)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Cedar Point County Park Master Plan

Copies of the Draft Cedar Point County Park Master Plan were distributed to the Trustees. The Commissioner asked the Trustees to review and comment on this plan. At a subsequent meeting the Trustees will be asked to consider approving this plan. The Commissioner asked that the Trustees return the documents after they review.

Cupsogue County Park

The Commissioner reported a proposal was put forth to improve traffic at the entrance to Cupsogue County Park. There were discussions with the Village of Westhampton Dunes and DPW. The traffic for Cupsogue backs up at least a mile into the Village of Westhampton Dunes during the summer months. A proposal was developed to establish an ingress lane and turnaround. Parks would incur some of the turnaround work on our property. We have run into some difficulties with the Village and residents that are located on that stretch of Dune Road. Parks is having internal discussions on this issue. Cupsogue County Park is maxed out in terms of parking. The Village has been forthcoming with their plans to develop the site which we are reviewing with the Department of Public Works.

West Sayville Golf Course

Two main pumps (the circulation pump and the backup) have failed. We presently have no irrigation at West Sayville. It is not a problem right now, but it will be in another month. We have a purchase order for new pumps which will take 4 – 6 weeks to have them delivered and installed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Natural Borders Off Leash Dog Parks

Chairman Cardillo reported that earlier in the day several of the Trustees walked two potential natural borders dog off leash park sites. One site was on Roe Avenue in East Patchogue and the other site was at Robinson Duck Farm in Brookhaven. Both are very nice sites for natural borders off leash dog parks.

Letter from Brian M. Brady re Netting at Bergen Point Golf Course

The Chairman discussed correspondence he received from Brian M. Brady regarding the netting and relocation of the 9th hole tee box. A copy of this letter was distributed to the Trustees. Mr. Brady reflected his thoughts that at the last Trustees meeting the minutes incorrectly stated “the netting seems to have helped a majority of the neighbors.” Mr. Brady’s letter states “not a single resident has indicated that the netting has stopped the safety hazard as it currently exists.”

ROUND TABLE

A Study of Robinson Duck Farm

Commissioner Pavacic reported the study will look at existing conditions, ecology, potential for contamination, underground storage tanks (where prior buildings were located), potential for remediation and ecological restoration and future uses for the site.

Fishing Pier

Terry Maccarrone reported a pre construction meeting was held with DPW as well as an on site meeting. We’ve ordered pilings which should take about 6 weeks to arrive. Construction will start after the July 4th weekend. There is a 10 ton weight limit on the bridge at this point so we will be using the marina property as a staging area. DPW is taking emergency measures to shore up the bridge.

GATR Site

Terry Maccarrone reported there are 3 main contractors. We're hoping to have a pre-construction meeting in early June and hoping construction will begin in early July.

Elevations for the Boardwalk at Cupsogue County Park

At the last meeting we discussed having DPW roll everything into an RFP. That same day we received an email from DPW informing us they would have a crew out there the following week. The elevations are now complete. DPW will use those elevations to get drawings together.

Visit to Potential Natural Border Off Leash Dog Parks

Trustee Borden thanked Commissioner Pavacic and Nick Gibbons for the tour of the sites for potential natural border off-leash dog parks.

Home Rule Message

Legislator Vilorio-Fisher reported the County has an Assembly and Senate sponsor for the home rule message for the increase in the hotel/motel tax. If approved, money will be coming into Parks.

I.R. 1273

Trustee Dawson reported the Trustees are trying to work out a compromise with the Legislature on this issue. The Trustees understand the Legislature's unhappiness at not being able to override the Trustees' veto. We're hoping to work out some kind of compromise to resolve this issue. I.R. 1273 has been tabled for the next cycle.

Veterans Park Complex

Trustee McKay serves on the Open Space and Parks Committee for the Town of Huntington. Trustee McKay reported he went on some site visits in Huntington yesterday. The progress at the Veterans Park complex, which was a joint Town and County acquisition, is amazing. The active recreation component involves soccer fields, Little League fields, etc. There are two lighted, full sized soccer, football, lacrosse fields completed and ready to be used as soon as the roadway is opened. It is a magnificent facility.

Visit to Potential Natural Border Off-Leash Dog Parks

Trustee White thanked the Commissioner for the tour of potential natural border off leash dog parks earlier in the day. Commissioner Pavacic said the two potential off leash dog parks will be pilot projects in case there are issues that needs to be addressed.

Trustee White thanked Tom Jones for his support of the Trustees.

Use of Robinson Duck Farm as Potential Site for Natural Border Off-Leash Dog Park

Trustee Corwin said the history of Robinson Duck Farm is it was originally going to be added to the National Wildlife Refuge, which was significant. Commissioner Pavacic responded that what is present at the site today is not the native vegetation community that was originally there. Most of the native woodland has been removed over the years. This site has been manipulated, changed and altered over the years.

Trustee Corwin thanked Legislature Vilorio-Fisher and the Legislature for being open to a possible compromise on I.R. 1273. This may be an opportunity in determining a consistency in the role the Trustees play.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18th at Cathedral Pines in Middle Island.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Engel. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0